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In Dr. Ward's paper (*l. c.*) the above description is noted, but "Tule" is referred to *Phragmites Phragmites* (L.) Karst., an error which Dr. Ward writes me arose from the fact that he believed Becker's specimens to belong to that genus and not to *Scirpus*.

In this connection a note of interest may be found in the American Naturalist, 31: 227. 1897, in relation to stolons of *Phragmites*, from islands in the Platte River, Nebraska, where it is stated that the long trailing stems, which are at first under ground, have become exposed by the erosion of the surrounding sand and now run over the surface as jointed stolons, with fibrous roots at the joints.

A paper relating to the same subject may also be found in a recent number of the BULLETIN, in which is described and figured the culms and rhizomes of a supposed fossil grass.\* A comparison between certain of the figures which illustrate that paper and those now given are of interest and significance.

Taking all the facts into consideration there seems to be but little doubt that most of the organisms described under the genus *Caulinites* should be regarded as belonging to the rhizomes of grasses, sedges or rushes, and it is unfortunate that the generic name implies relationship with the Naiadaceae.

#### Explanation of Plate 320.

Figs. 1, 1 a. Rhizome of *Tripsacum dactyloides* L., from Great Falls of the Potomac, Maryland side, collected by Dr. Lester F. Ward, April 27, 1895.—Fig. 1, upper surface; fig. 1 a, under surface of same.

Figs. 2, 3. *Caulinites digitatus* Wat. Plant. Foss. Bass. Paris, *pl.* 19, *figs.* 7, 8.

Fig. 4. *Arundo* (*Donax*) *Goepperti* (Münst.) Heer, Fl. Tert. Helvet. 1: *pl.* 23, *fig.* 5.

### Proceedings of the Club.

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 12, 1897.

The first meeting of the Club, after the summer vacation, was held in its new quarters at the College of Pharmacy. The President occupied the chair and 24 persons were present. In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Willard N. Clute was elected Secretary pro-tem.

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\* A new Fossil Grass from Staten Island. Arthur Hollick, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club, 24: 122-124. *pl.* 298. 1897.

No regular program had been prepared for this meeting, but notes detailing some results of the summer's work were presented by Drs. Rusby and Underwood, Mr. C. Van Brunt, Mrs. E. G. Britton, Judge Brown, Mr. Eugene Smith, Mr. M. A. Howe and Miss Ingersoll.

Dr. H. H. Rusby spoke of his work at the Kew Herbarium in identifying some 2,000 plants of two Bolivian collections. As an indication of how the Columbia University has grown in the last few years, he noted that in working up a similar collection four years ago, he was able to determine but 5 or 6% by comparison with the plants in this herbarium, while of the present collection nearly 50% were identified by this means. He added that the herbarium at Kew is also growing rapidly and in four years has added to its collections nearly half as many specimens as are in the Columbia Herbarium.

Dr. L. M. Underwood supplemented these remarks by an account of his experiences at Kew during the summer. One of the objects of his visit to Kew was to see the type specimens of Berkeley's fungi, which he said were mostly described in two brief lines of Latin, and in the majority of cases the specimens were even briefer than the descriptions, and were in a very unsatisfactory condition. He was also able to clear up some vexed points in reference to common species of fungi, which had been described in England without reference to the species' nearest allies, and were wrong in consequence.

An investigation of the distribution of the ferns given by the Synopsis Filicum showed the allowance of such wide distribution, that under one name there are often several species, and in some cases as many as eight. Dr. Underwood remarked that the Kew Herbarium is superior to the Paris Herbarium even in the plants of the French provinces. Of these, many are represented at Kew and not at all at Paris.

Mr. Cornelius Van Brunt spoke of his journey to the Selkirk and Rocky Mountains of British America, during which he made many photographs of new or interesting plants.

Mrs. E. G. Britton remarked upon the abundance of *Botrychium ternatum obliquum* and *B. t. dissectum* on the Berkshire Hills of Mass., and mentioned the frequency of the fronds forking. She

also described a new *Ophioglossum*, found by Dr. Crawford and Mr. Pollard, near Cape May, N. J., growing in dense, yellowish patches.

President Brown spoke of his summer at Sam's Point in the Shawangunk Mountains. It is a wild region with many precipitous ledges. He described one precipice with an altitude of 2200 feet, bearing pine trees on its summit only six inches high, but with perfectly developed cones. Throughout the region *Arenaria Groenlandica* was abundant in bloom from June to September, most copiously in July. He remarked upon the abundance and profuse bloom of *Gentiana quinquefolia*, *Kalmia latifolia*, *Rhododendron maximum*, *Ilex montana*, *Gaylussacia resinosa* and *Rhodora*.

Mr. Eugene Smith recorded the finding of *Woodwardia areolata* in Bergen Co., N. J.

Mr. M. A. Howe recorded the occurrence of *Pogonia pendula* near Battleboro, Vt. This is the only known station for that plant in the state.

Mrs. Britton reported two mosses new to the local flora, *Thamnum Alleghaniense* from Bedford, Westchester Co., N. Y., and *Bryum concinnatum*, the third time collected in America, now from Bashbish Falls, Copake, N. Y.

Miss Bertha Swalb and Miss Bernice Mayers were elected active members.

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 27, 1897.

There were 23 persons present; Vice-President Dr. Allen presiding.

Mr. Wm. L. Riddell was elected an active member.

The scientific program included two papers. The first paper by Mr. P. A. Rydberg, entitled "Botanical Explorations in Montana during the Summer of 1897," discussed the alpine flora of Montana, exhibiting herbarium specimens and drawings. Mr. Rydberg described a collecting trip made by him and Mr. Ernest A. Bessey to Old Hollow-top, a mountain of 10,000 feet altitude in the Pony or South Boulder Mountains. In a swamp at the foot of the peak, they had found *Ledum glandulosum*, *Kalmia microphylla*, *Cassiope tetragona* and three species of *Bryanthus*. These

finds were remarkable, as ericaceous plants are rather rare in Montana. In aspect the place resembled bogs of Michigan and of Sweden.

The paper further contained a list of the more remarkable plants collected on Old Hollowtop, followed by a short description of the general nature of its flora and that of the other alpine peaks of Montana. Their characteristic plants, like those of other alpine regions, are remarkable for their small size and their brightly colored flowers. Most of them are but 2 to 3 inches high; few exceed 5 inches. The mountain side of Old Hollowtop presents a mixture of golden yellow, indigo-blue, the richest magenta, the most delicate pink, violet and snowy white, with a mat of the brightest green for a background.

The forage plants of these alpine peaks are chiefly small cespitose clovers, and include but few grasses. During the summer four or five such clovers were collected, one or two of which are undescribed. Among the trees and shrubs of the alpine peaks, the most remarkable were the five small alpine willows collected, forming a light green mat covering the mountain-side above timber line. The smaller willows of the White mountains and of the Alps and of Siberia are giants compared with these dwarfs of the Rockies. Four of these Montana willows, with *Salix rotundifolia* from the island of Unalaska, are the smallest shrubs of Salicaceae in the world. Two of these pygmies are new to science; one of which, growing often only half an inch high, is believed to be the smallest species of willow known.

In the discussion following, Dr. Britton inquired regarding the similarity or difference of circumboreal willows.

Mr. Rydberg said that *S. herbacea* apparently remains the same in both hemispheres; so does *S. arctica*; and *S. Brownii* does so through a wide range in North America.

Dr. Britton remarked that Mr. Rydberg's Montana trip was the first expedition sent out officially by the New York Botanical Garden.

Prof. Burgess referred to a supposed age of 34 years for a dwarf willow of about 6 inches stem from Alaska, and Dr. Rydberg mentioned 12 years as perhaps the age reached by the dwarfs of his present paper, their stems dying along the rooting base too rapidly to permit great age.

Dr. Rusby spoke of arctic willows as part of the food of beavers and of reindeer in northern Russia.

The second paper was by Dr. John K. Small, "On the genus *Eriogonum* north of Mexico," a genus founded by Michaux upon a single species in 1803, and increased by Pursh and Nuttall. Bentham issued its first monograph in 1837, with 28 species, and a second with 81 in 1856; Torrey and Gray in a third monograph in 1870 left the number unchanged, but with many reductions and additions. A fourth monograph by Dr. Sereno Watson in 1870, presented 95 species, since which many have been described by others, as Greene, Jones and Eastwood.

In discussing this paper, Dr. Allen contributed an entertaining description of his difficulties in bringing growing specimens of *Eriogonum Alleni* from near White Sulphur Springs to the Botanical Garden. Dr. Britton reported that the specimens then secured have done well in cultivation at Bronx Park, and have matured seeds.

Dr. Allen spoke of finding two or three species of *Eriogonum* in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado last summer, and described his descent of the Canyon by mule trail, and also his journey to California in search of Characeae.

Dr. Britton reported two cases of naturalization of escapes from greenhouses; The first that of a creeping form of *Oxalis corniculata*, now becoming a weed at Whitestone, L. I.

The second case is that of a fern, apparently an *Asplenium* from a temperate habitat, thrown out with other things as useless, four or five years ago from a greenhouse, growing discolored and sickly in the greenhouse, but now thrifty and spreading under trees on a lawn.

Other cases of fern naturalization which have been previously reported include that of an *Adiantum* in Rhode Island, by Mr. Davenport, and a *Pteris* in a rock-cut near the New York Central Railroad tunnel in our own city; noted by Mr. W. A. Clute.

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 9, 1897.

Vice-President Rusby presided. There were 17 persons present.

The following were elected active members:

Miss Margaret A. Johnston, Mr. L. W. Pinneo, Miss Carolyn M. Grambo, Miss Emilie O. Long.

The paper of the evening by Mrs. E. G. Britton, "A Description of two new Species of *Ophioglossum*," is printed in this BULLETIN. The paper also discussed the affinities, range and type characters of our eastern species of *Ophioglossum*, with keys and specific descriptions and with exhibition of tracings and numerous mounted specimens.

In the discussion following, Dr. Rusby spoke of the growth of *Ophioglossum vulgatum* among sedges on a salt marsh at Great Island, N. J. The other nearest collections reported were those of Austin at Closter, N. J., and of Miss M. Sanial at Rockaway, L. I.

Dr. Underwood sketched the characteristics of the four distinct types of *Ophioglossum* as: 1st, the section typified by *O. vulgatum* and discussed in the paper; 2d, that by *O. palmatum* of tropical America, which extends into Florida, there growing directly under the crown of the palmetto trees, nestled among the leaf-stubs; 3d, that typified by *O. pendulum*, found in the Hawaiian Islands and Pacific regions, which is also pendulous from trees and produces a spike attached almost to the middle of the leaf. In the 4th section, with growth not over 1 inch high, the sterile and fertile fronds are distinct to the rooting base.

Dr. Underwood further remarked the necessity of experience to find forms of *Ophioglossum*, especially such as *O. crotalophoroides* only one inch high, collected by him in Alabama.

Mr. Clute spoke of the great diversity in size displayed by *O. vulgatum* in a single locality.

Professor Burgess referred to the occasional occurrence of *O. vulgatum* with its namesake *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, and to other companion plants with which he finds *Ophioglossum* associated in growth, as *Chiogenes* and especially the orchids *Microstylis ophioglossoides*, *Habenaria hyperborea* and *H. dilatata*.

Dr. Underwood then exhibited photographs of the Kew Gardens, with reminiscences of his visit of last summer. He spoke particularly of their formal decoration, dating back to royal use, and the photographs shown included one of "Queen Mary's Elm," planted by her about 1555, once 25 feet in girth, now represented chiefly by a series of shoots.

After remarks by Dr. Rusby appealing to the Club to secure the membership of all who are interested in botanical science, the Club was adjourned.

### Index to recent Literature relating to American Botany.

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- Berry, E. W.** The Pine Barren Plants of New Jersey. Asa Gray Bull. 5: 71-75. 2f. 25 O. 1897.
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